



Dear Readers:

Numbers provided by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service represent facts about agriculture in Pennsylvania. Within the pages of this book, you will find statistics that outline the progress made in agriculture over the last year. Not only will you discover counts of crops and livestock, but also information about farm size, market sales, land use, farm expenses, direct sales and machinery.

Agriculture, in addition to production, also includes support services such as food processing, marketing, transportation and manufacturers that make products and equipment used on farms. Together, these hundreds of thousands of people work to contribute almost \$45 billion to Pennsylvania's economy.

Milk production is the leading segment of our agricultural industry, with annual sales in 2004 valued at \$1.6 billion. We recently unveiled the Center for Dairy Excellence, a division of the Department of Agriculture, designed to help Pennsylvania dairy farmers tackle the obstacles they face within the industry.

In an effort to support local farmers, and also generate income and job growth throughout the Commonwealth, we are aggressively promoting Pennsylvania products through our new Pennsylvania Preferred™ marketing program. Through Pennsylvania Preferred™, consumers are given an opportunity to choose local, fresh farm products while shopping at their area grocery store or farmers market. We are predicting that by next year, a rise in sales will be seen for those products registered to use the Pennsylvania Preferred™ label.

As part of this year's economic stimulus package, agriculture received \$100 million from the First Industries Fund. This funding will be accessed through the Small Business First (SBF) and Machinery and Equipment Loan Funds (MELF), both which help farmers to supplement start-up and expansion costs - yet another example of resources that will support the growth of agriculture in this state, as well as our 'Ag is Welcome Here' campaign.

As one of the Pennsylvania's leading industries, agriculture provides residents with some of the world's finest food, high-quality livestock, horticultural and hardwood products. We greatly appreciate those farm families, agribusinesses and others who contribute to agriculture in Pennsylvania. Thank you for helping us to accomplish so much this year. Best wishes for a successful 2005.



Edward G. Rendell

Edward G. Rendell
Governor



D. Wolff

Dennis Wolff
Secretary

AGRICULTURE IS WELCOME HERE

Pennsylvania's farmers are our lifeline to a dependable, safe and fresh food supply. For over three centuries, our farm families have helped to feed our families, our communities and our nation. Today, there are over 58,000 farms covering 7.7 acres of farmland. These farms generate over \$4 billion in cash receipts making Pennsylvania the leading agriculture producer in the Northeast.

The strength of Pennsylvania's farms serves as the foundation for the commonwealth's growing agribusiness industry. Together with production agriculture, the agriculture industry reaps \$45 billion in cash receipts, making agriculture the leading industry in Pennsylvania.

Over the years, Pennsylvania farmers have used the moderate climate and variety of soil types to full advantage in delivering a broad diversity of crops and products. In addition to the natural resources, this Administration recognizes the importance of creating, and retaining a welcoming environment for agriculture to thrive in the commonwealth. Growing is something that agriculture does well, and this Administration wants to ensure that it has the tools to do just that.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- \$100 million from the First Industries Fund-dedicated funding for Small Business First and the Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund.
- Marketplace for the Mind, the state's online agricultural resource library allows user-friendly access to the latest agricultural information and activities for teachers, students and the public.
- \$40 million investment in the Farmland Preservation program. Pennsylvania continues to maintain the lead in the number of farms and acres preserved in the US and is nearing milestones for 3,000 farms and 250,000 acres preserved.
- Support for the development of new research and technologies that evaluate, improve and protect our products and the land.
- PA Preferred™-By encouraging consumers to purchase Pennsylvania's agricultural products, the PA Preferred Program helps increase profits for farmers and agribusiness and provides jobs for the entire state. This is a win-win situation for producers and consumers alike.
- \$81.4 million budget for the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture increased by nearly \$9 million from last year
- Center for Dairy Excellence-designed to increase the success of PA's dairy industry by effectively utilizing all available resources.

ACRE

In an effort to balance the business interests of the agricultural community and the quality-of-life concerns raised by residents of our rural communities, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Protection developed ACRE-The Plan for the Protection of Agriculture, Communities and Rural Environment.

The Agriculture Review Board is a five-member board consisting of Secretaries of PDA, DEP and DCED, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State University, and a gubernatorial appointee. The board will oversee and work to improve the following:

● **Nutrient Management Act Regulations**
ACRE revises the Nutrient Management Act Regulations to include enhanced exporting requirements, requires nutrient management plans to include a phosphorus index analysis; requires an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan for plowed and tilled lands (or a conservation plan); adds horse operations and other non-production livestock operations) into the definition of a CAO; enhances winter application so that it can be reviewed and enforced; and adds requirements on how field-stacked manure is to be addressed on these operations.

● **Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Regulations**
ACRE revises CAFO regulations to reflect the EPA's new animal number thresholds for defining who is a CAFO and therefore required to obtain a permit. Also makes further amendments such as requiring new manure storages built for swine, veal, and poultry operations to be designed and sized to allow vegetative buffers from surface water, and to have a DEP Water Quality Part II permit prior to construction.

● **Best Management Practices for Odor**
ACRE requires best management practices for odor in new construction for CAFOs and CAOs.

● **Manure "Export Loophole"**
ACRE requires farms importing manure from CAFOs and CAOs to have signed agreements, nutrient balance sheets documenting allowable application rates, required record keeping, and the same manure application setbacks and buffers as the farm that produced the manure.

For additional information, contact Mike Pechart at (717) 705-2122 or e-mail mpechart@state.pa.us.

PA PREFERRED--SATISFYING CONSUMERS, HELPING AGRICULTURE

Since January 2004, the PA Preferred™ Program has been giving consumers a visible indication that they are buying products produced in Pennsylvania. Products carrying a blue and gold checkmark assure consumers that the food or agricultural product was grown or processed in the commonwealth. Since its inception, more than 500 farmers, food processors, restaurants, grocery stores and wineries have joined the program-and have provided consumers with a wide range of products from Pennsylvania.

The PA Preferred™ program assists Pennsylvania farmers by encouraging consumers to purchase Pennsylvania products. At the same time, PA Preferred™ comforts consumers with important quality standards.

"According to a recent study, 93 percent of Pennsylvanians would prefer to buy and use products that are grown, raised or produced locally," said Wolff. "Armed with this knowledge we created the PA Preferred program, believing that consumers would indeed choose goods from Pennsylvania. When a product carries the PA Preferred™ logo, consumers know that their product comes from one of the finest agricultural areas in the world.

WHY PA PREFERRED?

PA Preferred indicates that at least 60% of the raw product was grown and harvested in the commonwealth or (for items like chocolate) 100% of the final manufacturing process and packaging was performed by Pennsylvanians.

When purchasing products with the PA Preferred™ logo, consumers will know that they have found foods grown and processed under some of the world's most stringent food safety standards; nursery products grown to thrive in Pennsylvania's soil and climate; and furniture and hardwood products made from the best quality wood in the world.

The Pennsylvania Preferred Program gives producers, manufacturers, retailers, and restaurateurs a way to highlight Pennsylvania products. Participants in the program can use the logo in all marketing and promotional activities (including packaging) and identify their products with the logo in grocery stores, specialty food stores, farmer's markets, roadside stands, restaurants or trade shows.

A WIN-WIN SITUATION

For participants, the program is likely to increase sales of Pennsylvania food and agribusiness products. This has a ripple effect, resulting in increased employment opportunities, and a stronger state economy and agricultural community.

"The Pennsylvania Preferred Program is a win-win situation for both consumers and farmers. When consumers purchase Pennsylvania products, they are helping support the economy and local farmers," said Wolff.



- ✓ Support our local farmers
- ✓ High food safety and quality standards
- ✓ Commitment to Pennsylvania
- ✓ Using PA-sourced products

For more information about the program, to find companies registered in PA Preferred, or to apply online, visit: www.agriculture.state.pa.us/market/PaPreferred.



Brant Bickel of PDA congratulates new PA Preferred™ participants, Mazza Vineyards of North East and Matthew's Trattoria of Erie.

CENTER FOR DAIRY EXCELLENCE

The dairy industry is a driving force in Pennsylvania's economy, representing over 40% of Pennsylvania's agricultural cash receipts and generating \$1.7 billion in economic activity. This segment of agriculture is a major determinant of the vitality of many of Pennsylvania's rural communities.

Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff created the Center for Dairy Excellence to provide the necessary leadership to help ensure that Pennsylvania dairy farms and the dairy industry are profitable and competitive. The Center coordinates and supplements existing dairy programs and services to better meet the needs of the dairy industry. Established in January 2004, the Center:

- Works in cooperation with the Dairy Task Force and the Department of Agriculture
- Creates informal working partnerships with and between dairy related organizations, institutions and businesses

- Coordinates and leads activities and resources across the industry to support the Dairy Task Force, industry allies and the PA Department of Agriculture dairy programs/services
- Assists with economic development opportunities designed to strengthen the PA dairy industry

Under the leadership of Executive Director, Gary Heckman, the Center for Dairy Excellence aims to:

- Improve producer and industry profits
- Improve the financial impact of the dairy industry on Pennsylvania's economy
- Achieve industry performance goals
- Maximize the use and application of all available resources
- Coordinate dairy-related programs within PDA
- Improve the perceived value of the dairy industry in Pennsylvania

CENTER FOR
DairyEXCELLENCE



AGRICULTURE EDUCATION: SHAPING OUR FUTURE

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture has come a long way since unveiling its Agricultural Education Initiative in the summer of 2003. With the leadership of Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff and Agriculture Education Coordinator, Dr. MeeCee Baker, agricultural education has taken giant steps forward in Pennsylvania.

MARKETPLACE FOR THE MIND

Launched in the fall of 2003, Marketplace for the Mind.com received praise from educational leaders across the United States. Now receiving an average of 8,000 hits per month, this groundbreaking agricultural education resource, streamlines and consolidates the efforts of many groups dedicated to education both in and about agriculture. Through the site, we hope to educate school-aged children and provide agricultural education opportunities for children and adults alike. The site helps teachers fulfill state standards and provides agricultural resources directly aligned to the agriculturally-related state academic standards of ag-related careers. Job seekers can also click on the profiled companies and go right to their human resource site.



AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

Through the agriculture education initiative, hundreds of Pennsylvania citizens of all ages have been introduced to agriculture in the last year. As a major part of this project, Secretary Wolff has visited approximately 20 schools and taught elementary through high school students about agriculture. Educating on issues such as dairy cows, mushrooms, farmland preservation, genetics, and efficient energy, students have been treated to in-depth information critical to establishing an agriculturally-educated public. By targeting school-aged children, the Agriculture Department can ensure that future generations of Pennsylvanians understand at least the basic concepts of agriculture.

As well as school visits, a variety of agricultural education programming workshops have also been developed to educate the public about topical issues in agriculture. From the Animal Health Summit to tours aimed at education about mushroom production for township supervisors, the Agriculture Department is working hard to create an environment where agriculture can thrive in the commonwealth.

"As I have often said, agricultural education both in and about agriculture is an important tool to ensure that agriculture remains a leading industry in the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Through careful education of the public about agriculture, we can ensure that an informed agriculture public will shape our collective future," said Wolff.

CAPITAL AREA STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN URBAN AG CAMPS

In 2004, the PA Department of Agriculture began a series of Urban Ag Camps for area students. The two sessions held, July 20-21 and July 27-28 were designed to provide urban students with exposure to agriculture.

PROVIDING A FOUNDATION

More than 200 students from Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon and York counties attended the camps at the PA State Farm and State Farm Show Complex.

"Unfortunately, urban students from the capital region are at a disadvantage when it comes to agricultural education because they often lack opportunities to be exposed to the diversity of agriculture and food production," Wolff said. "In an effort to reach these students, the Department of Agriculture developed Urban Ag Camps during the summer months. We believe that the lessons learned by these students will provide a strong foundation in agriculture."

Students at the camps had the opportunity to learn about the various facets of the agricultural industry. Workshops on food safety, grain and wool identification, cheese production, milking mechanics, entomology, and Pennsylvania hardwoods were part of the daily activities at the camps. The camps were sponsored by Department of Agriculture and facilitated by the Penn State Cooperative Extension Service.

"Allowing students to participate in hands-on agricultural activities will improve ag-literacy for future generations," said Wolff. "It has been exciting to witness the campers' shared enthusiasm for agriculture. I am looking forward to the same enthusiasm in the upcoming sessions."

PRESERVING OUR FUTURE

SPRAWL: A SERIOUS THREAT TO AGRICULTURE

In just two generations, urban sprawl has become a serious threat to Pennsylvania's agricultural economy. Pennsylvania developed over one million acres of fields, open space and natural land-the sixth largest such conversion after Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and California. In recent years, Pennsylvania has consumed land at a rate equivalent to 300 acres per day. This has resulted in the loss of tremendous amounts of prime farmland-land that once lost, can never return to its agricultural roots.

The number of farms and farmers in Pennsylvania has decreased from almost 222,000 farms in 1910 to 59,000 farms in 2003. As Pennsylvania loses its farms, farmland and farmers, we lose our competitive edge and economic advantage over other states and nations regarding agricultural production, trade and power.

PROVIDING A FOUNDATION

Despite that only 27 percent of Pennsylvania's land base is agricultural, farmland is the foundation of agriculture-and agriculture is Pennsylvania's leading industry. As most realize, land is one of the most important assets for any type of farm operation.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture realizes the importance of preserving farmland in the commonwealth. In 1989, the Pennsylvania Agricultural Land Preservation

Board was created to stem the turnover of prime farmland for other uses. Through the program, the state and individual counties can purchase development rights, called 'easements,' on farmland. Thus, landowners are compensated for offering their development rights for the land while permanently protecting the farmland for agriculture. In the 15 years since the board was created, Pennsylvania has preserved a total of 2,461 farms and 284,783 acres

FARMLAND PRESERVATION: A WIN-WIN SITUATION

Citizens throughout the commonwealth have recognized that Pennsylvania's farmland preservation program helps to sustain our strategic strength and ability to produce food and fiber for our citizens-today and in the future. The Rendell Administration also recognizes the importance of farmland preservation. This year, the Governor will propose additional funding to continue farmland preservation programs in Pennsylvania.

Protecting farmland is a win-win situation. Studies show that saving land saves taxpayers money. Residential development requires more tax dollars for public services than are collected in taxes. Pennsylvania's experience has shown that it is possible to accommodate growth while preserving an agricultural economic base. Pennsylvania's farmland is a vital part of our economic infrastructure.

"Farmland preservation is the answer to protecting the future of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry," said Wolff.

FIRST INDUSTRIES FUNDING

In April, Governor Ed Rendell signed the state's economic stimulus package into law, making the agriculture industry eligible for \$100 million in funding through the First Industries Program (FIP).

Never before has a Governor invested so much money into production agriculture. Through this dedicated funding to the Small Business First and Machinery and Equipment Loan Fund programs, the commonwealth can partner with lenders to reduce risk and stretch limited resources for agribusiness.

MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT LOAN FUND (MELF)

This loan provides low-interest financing for purchasing new or used equipment. The maximum loan limit is \$500,000 or 50 percent of the total project costs -- whichever is less. Interest rates vary between three and five percent.

Eligibility:

- Manufacturing
- Industrial
- Agricultural processing
- Direct mining

Eligible Uses:

- Machinery and equipment acquisition & upgrading
- Related engineering and installation costs directly related to the operations or processes

SMALL BUSINESS FIRST

This program assists Pennsylvania businesses, including production agriculture, to purchase assets or secure working capital. The maximum loan limit is \$200,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less. Maximum loan amount for working capital is \$100,000 or 50% of total eligible project costs, whichever is less.

Small businesses (100 employees or less) in the following categories are eligible:

- Manufacturing
- Industrial
- Agricultural processors
- Mining enterprises
- Export-related, advanced technology and computer-related services
- Hotels, motels or restaurants
- Environmental compliance/pollution prevention
- Municipal or commercial recyclers
- Defense-related

Eligible uses for funding:

- Land/building acquisition and construction
- Machinery/equipment purchases and upgrades
- Working capital
- Environmental compliance/pollution prevention

For more information about these loan programs, visit DCED's website at www.inventpa.com.

AT THE FRONT LINES OF ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

This year, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture took its place at the front line of the quest for an effective animal identification system when USDA awarded the state \$615,000. These funds will be used by the Department to conduct a premise and animal identification pilot study.

"These funds are one more resource to help Pennsylvania agriculture remain a leader in applying state-of-the-art solutions to the evolving challenges of protecting our food supply," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff.

During the 12-month study, animals will be tracked through various production and marketing channels: from the farm to packing and rendering plants.

HOW WILL THE ANIMALS BE TRACKED?

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) will play a critical role in the new initiative. RFID employs an ear tag with an electronic chip that can be read when the animal passes by a sensor, in much the same way as scanning technology works in grocery stores. The following groups will be able to test and ultimately utilize animal tracking technology through RFID:

- Producers
- Packing & rendering plants
- Livestock auctions
- Veterinarians
- Industry associations

"We also hope to demonstrate the effectiveness of this technology to rapidly trace animal movements in the event of a disease outbreak. This is a great step forward for Pennsylvania in the field of animal tracking and identification."

Dennis Wolff, Secretary of Agriculture

KEYSTONE AG INNOVATION CENTER

In November, Pennsylvania was selected to receive nearly \$1 million by USDA to create the Keystone Agricultural Innovation Center (KAIC), a joint project of the Department of Agriculture and Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service. Pennsylvania was one of only 10 states selected for an agricultural innovation center.

USDA created the program as part of the 2002 Farm Bill to foster farmer ownership of products and processes beyond the farm gate. For Pennsylvania agricultural producers and communities wanting to establish and maintain value-added agricultural activities, the KAIC provides:

- Technical assistance
- Educational opportunities

The education programs will focus on improving the ability of agricultural producers to evaluate and choose value-added agricultural commodities or products.

The technical assistance aspect will focus on:

- Processing and other physical properties of agricultural commodities and products
- Marketing and business management issues
- Local agricultural business climate issues that create value-added opportunities

The Keystone Agricultural Innovation Center will rely on the expertise of Penn State's Cooperative Extension Service and other project partners to offer farmers and farm groups technical assistance in analyzing the feasibility of projects and developing business and marketing plans for new crops, new markets and value-added products. If farmers can develop products that allow them to earn a larger share of consumer food and energy dollars, the entire rural economy wins because farmers tend to spend their money locally.

Through the KAIC, a farmer may learn that marketing their produce at a farmer's market is likely to increase revenue by tapping the demand for locally-grown products.

"The Ag Innovation Center is a step in the right direction for Pennsylvania agriculture-particularly for the value-added sector of our agricultural economy. Together with our other programs, I am certain that we will be able to continue to increase the agricultural opportunities for Pennsylvania agriculturists," said Wolff.

KAIC offices are housed in the Penn State Cooperative Extension offices in Blair, Cumberland, and Lebanon counties. In order to best utilize the resources of existing entities, the KAIC is a partnership of the:

- Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
- Penn State Cooperative Extension
- Penn State's Technical Assistance Program for Businesses
- Keystone Development Center
- Kutztown Small Business Development Center
- Other agricultural and business groups in Pennsylvania

Information on the KAIC can be found at <http://kaic.psu.edu/> or by calling 814-863-6708.



BROADENING HORIZONS IN MEXICO: EDUCATION, AGRICULTURE AND CULTURE

THE EXPORT FOR SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Today, we live in a global marketplace. Like all businesses, the agriculture industry has taken advantage of some of the opportunities in the international arena. The Department of Agriculture has developed the Export for Scholars program to provide young agricultural leaders the opportunity to gain firsthand experience with developing an export market, understanding the process, as well as promoting understanding of the global marketplace.

LEARNING BY DOING

Since 2000, over 105 students, faculty and business individuals have participated in the Export for Scholars program. Students from W.B. Saul High School, Delaware Valley College, and Penn State University participated in trade missions to Mexico and Puerto Rico. Students participating in this program 'learn by doing,' expanding the lessons learned in the classroom and take part in all facets of the trade mission. Recent programs have focused on Pennsylvania's reputation in the dairy and livestock genetics industries.

Students work with faculty at their institutions, Department of Agriculture officials, Pennsylvania agribusinesses and their counterparts in the receiving country/market. Students develop a marketing plan, learn the culture of the trading partner, and most importantly, they have the chance to see the end result by traveling on a trade mission to meet the buyer. In doing so, they learn how to establish relationships both at home and abroad-relationships that are integral to the global and domestic marketplace.

EXPERIENCING AGRICULTURE IN MEXICO

In April, Secretary Wolff, accompanied by John Jantos, Division Chief, Domestic and International Business Development, and faculty and students from Delaware Valley College went to Mexico as part of the program. Students had the opportunity to watch the collection of embryos in Pennsylvania, and see them implanted in Mexican dairy cows, while learning about dairy business in Mexico. Along the way, they experienced the history and diverse culture of Mexico, and had the opportunity to interact with the students and faculty of the University of Guanajuato. The students also stayed at a working dairy farm north of Mexico City, and toured the second largest dairy products processing plant in the country.

For the students, this was an excellent opportunity to broaden their horizons internationally while learning a valuable lesson about the importance of trade in the global marketplace. In addition to the inherent value of the program to the participants, agricultural export lesson plans were developed and made available to teachers across the commonwealth-enabling all students to take advantage of the lessons learned by these students.

EVALUATING THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM

The Export for Scholars program was a success in several ways. From a purely economic sense, the program was successful because of the potential long-term increase in export sales from Pennsylvania. The 'value-added' success comes because of the educational opportunities made available to the delegation of scholars-and in the value of the cross-cultural communications shared between the university students from Pennsylvania and the host country. Today, there are students in the participating countries that have a better understanding of the trade process and first-hand knowledge of students of another culture-knowledge that is likely to ensure better trade relations amongst this next generation of agriculturalists.



As part of this year's Export for Scholars program, students accompanied Secretary Wolff on a trade mission to Mexico. While broadening their horizons, students learned about the importance of trade in the global marketplace.

COMBATING RABIES IN PENNSYLVANIA

Continuing the push for eradicating rabies in Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture again participated in the Oral Rabies Vaccination Baiting Program (ORV) this year. With the first phase of this year's operation beginning in April 2004, the second phase began in August and ran through September.

A WELL-PLANNED EFFORT

The two phases covered all or parts of Allegheny, Beaver, Butler, Cambria, Crawford, Erie, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Washington and Westmoreland counties. Low-flying aircraft dropped bait into sparsely populated areas, while trained employees targeted densely-populated areas by hand.

The vaccine is placed inside of a fishmeal bait to lure the raccoons to the smell. The vaccine contains only a small, non-infective portion of the rabies virus that cannot cause rabies. Once the raccoon punctures the sealed plastic package the vaccine is released into its mouth.

PROVEN RESULTS

Wildlife rabies accounts for almost 93 percent of the reported rabies cases in the U.S., and raccoons account for more than 50 percent of this total. Both before and after baiting, participating agencies conducted surveillance, trapping and testing activities targeting raccoons in the targeted counties. In 2003, a total of 428 positive cases in animals have been reported. Of this number, 232 raccoons were found positive for rabies. Although the primary focus is to vaccinate raccoons, other animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, horses, skunks and foxes also benefit from the program.

"Baiting with rabies vaccine is an effective tool in deterring further spread of the disease," Secretary Wolff said. "To combat rabies in Pennsylvania, we will continue to distribute oral rabies vaccine by hand and by air. As a result of the ongoing ORV program, rabies cases in the targeted area have decreased by almost 50 percent."

PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

Six agencies-PA Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Health, PA Game Commission, Erie County Health Department, Allegheny Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control-are collaborating with USDA's Wildlife Services for this program. The states of Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland and Tennessee are also involved. USDA Wildlife Services' attempts to establish a barrier stretching from the eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania Lake Erie shoreline southward through West Virginia, Virginia, and into Northern Tennessee to reduce the risk of raccoon rabies spreading westward into the middle and upper central states.

Oral Rabies Vaccination Program

Purpose: USDA Wildlife Services' mission is to reduce the risk of raccoon rabies spreading westward into the middle and upper central states.

Agencies Involved:

- PA Department of Agriculture
- PA Department of Health
- PA Game Commission
- Erie County Health Department
- Allegheny Health Department
- Centers for Disease Control
- USDA Wildlife Services

Area Affected:

- Maryland
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Virginia
- West Virginia

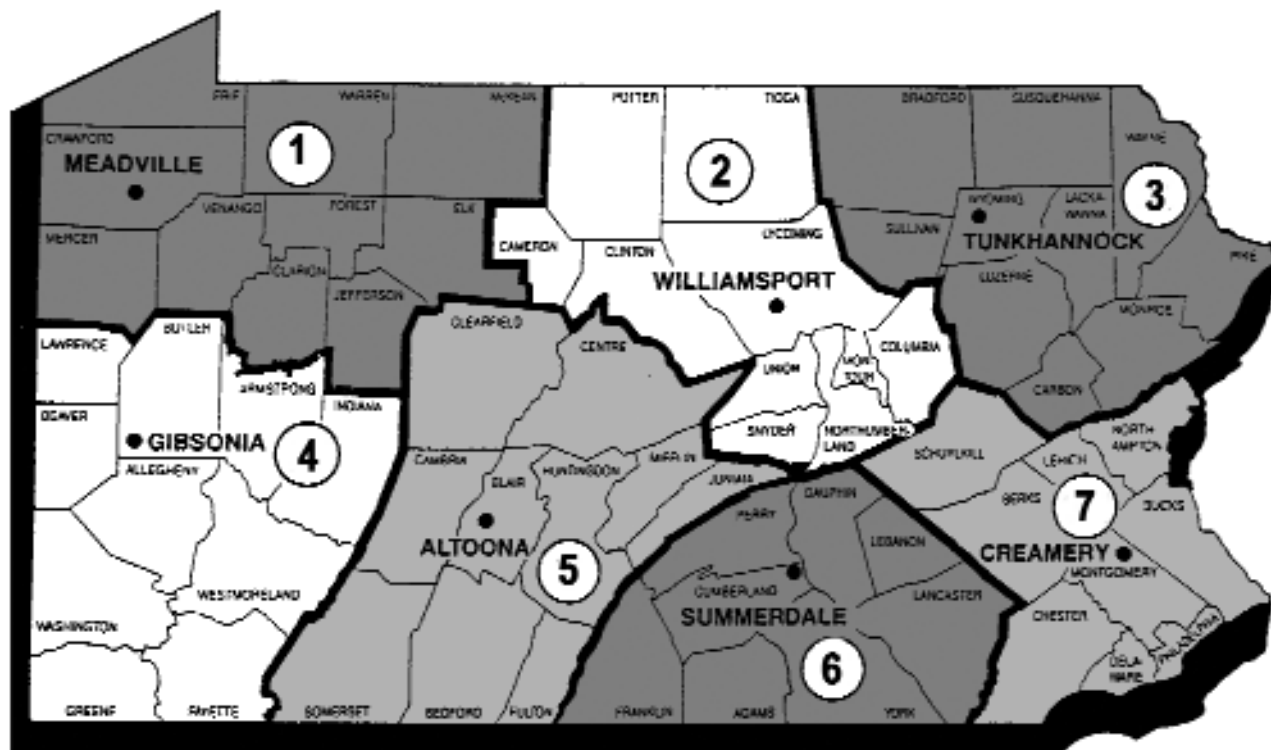
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